

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner, thereby to pass all of the claims to allowance.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

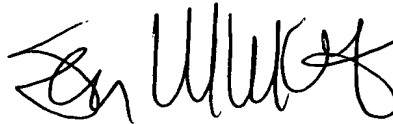
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No.: 09/955,146
Docket No. 289765/00
NEC.210

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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